

System of equations involving determinant.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6532446281925832704>

Solve for real numbers:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \det \begin{pmatrix} x & y & 2 & 3 \\ y & x & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & x & y \\ 3 & 2 & y & x \end{pmatrix} = 0 \\ x + y - \sqrt{xy} = \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}} \end{array} \right. .$$

Solution by Arkady Alt, San Jose, California, USA.

First note that x, y must be nonnegative, because $xy \geq 0$ and

$$x + y = \sqrt{xy} + \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}} \geq 0.$$

Using transformation $R_1 := R_1 + R_2 + R_3 + R_4$ we obtain

$$D(x, y) := \det \begin{pmatrix} x & y & 2 & 3 \\ y & x & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & x & y \\ 3 & 2 & y & x \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} x+y+5 & x+y+5 & x+y+5 & x+y+5 \\ y & x & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & x & y \\ 3 & 2 & y & x \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$(x+y+5) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ y & x & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & x & y \\ 3 & 2 & y & x \end{pmatrix} .$$

Using transformations $C_i := C_i - C_1, i = 2, 3, 4$ we obtain

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ y & x & 3 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 & x & y \\ 3 & 2 & y & x \end{pmatrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ y & x-y & 3-y & 2-y \\ 2 & 1 & x-2 & y-2 \\ 3 & -1 & y-3 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$\det \begin{pmatrix} x-y & 3-y & 2-y \\ 1 & x-2 & y-2 \\ -1 & y-3 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{R_1 := R_1 + R_2}{=} \det \begin{pmatrix} x-y+1 & x-y+1 & 0 \\ 1 & x-2 & y-2 \\ -1 & y-3 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$C_2 := C_2 - C_1 \quad \det \begin{pmatrix} x-y+1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & x-2 & y-2 \\ -1 & y-3 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} = (x-y+1) \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & x-3 & y-2 \\ -1 & y-2 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$(x-y+1) \det \begin{pmatrix} x-3 & y-2 \\ y-2 & x-3 \end{pmatrix} = (x-y+1)(x^2 - 6x - y^2 + 4y + 5) = ((x-y)^2 - 1).$$

Let $u := x + y, v := x - y$. Then $D(x, y) = ((x + y)^2 - 25)((x - y)^2 - 1) = (u^2 - 25)(v^2 - 1)$

and the system $\begin{cases} D(x, y) = 0 \\ x + y - \sqrt{xy} = \sqrt{\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}} \end{cases}$ becomes

$$(1) \quad \begin{cases} (u^2 - 25)(v^2 - 1) = 0 \\ u - \sqrt{\frac{u^2 - v^2}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{u^2 + v^2}{4}} \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \begin{cases} u = 5 \\ |v| = 1 \end{cases} \\ u - \sqrt{\frac{u^2 - v^2}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{u^2 + v^2}{4}} \end{cases}.$$

In the case $u = 5$ we obtain

$$5 - \sqrt{\frac{25 - v^2}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{25 + v^2}{4}} \Leftrightarrow \sqrt{25 + v^2} + \sqrt{25 - v^2} = 10 \stackrel{v \geq 0}{\Leftrightarrow} v = 0 \text{ and, therefore,}$$

$$\begin{cases} x + y = 5 \\ x = y \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow x = y = 2.5;$$

In the case $|v| = 1$ we obtain equation

$$u - \sqrt{\frac{u^2 - 1}{4}} = \sqrt{\frac{u^2 + 1}{4}} \Leftrightarrow 2u = \sqrt{u^2 + 1} + \sqrt{u^2 - 1}$$

which have no solutions in \mathbb{R} because $2u = \sqrt{u^2 + 1} + \sqrt{u^2 - 1} \Leftrightarrow u^2 = \sqrt{u^4 - 1}$.

Thus, final answer is $x = y = \frac{5}{2}$.